

Three-star general visits Defense Information School

By Lisa R. Rhodes
Staff Writer

From the artistry of a multimedia illustrator to the commanding voice of a radio newscaster, Lt. Gen. Mark P. Hertling said he was impressed with the broad training offered at the Defense Information School.

Hertling, special assistant to the commanding general, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Monroe, Va., visited DINFOS Friday. The general ran with the student company at the morning physical training session and spent the remainder of the day here.

"This is one of the places that I think we have some great work going on," he said. "It's pretty fascinating after seeing the various aspects of what happens and what builds the public affairs specialist."

In addition to training Soldiers and Army civilian leaders, TRADOC designs, develops and integrates capabilities, concepts and doctrine in order to build a campaign-capable, expeditionary Army.

Hertling, who was promoted in September, visited DINFOS as part of an effort to become familiar with methods for basic training, advanced individual training and leadership development at Army installations, particularly those in the northeast region.

Before a 45-minute tour of the school, Hertling met with Col. Gary L. Keck, the commandant of DINFOS, for a command briefing. Keck said the two men discussed the expansion of DINFOS in the spring and the school's commitment to meet the training needs of the Army and all service branches.

"He seemed very interested in learning how training is conducted and how well it is received by the Soldiers," Keck said of Hertling. "He seemed very impressed with the variety of skills that service members learn at DINFOS."

During the tour, Hertling met faculty and students in both a DINFOS multimedia illustrator course and public affairs qualification course. The lieutenant general also met Charles Brown, chief of the school's International Military Student Office; sat in on a live radio show; and visited a television broadcast studio.

Hertling said quality training comes as a result of great instructors who can motivate students and students who are passionate about their chosen career.

"You can see the spark in the eye of every one of the students," Hertling said. "They're enjoying what they do. They're learning something new. They are about to go into an organization where they can contribute even as a private or a sergeant."

Such dedication is crucial in the war on terror, Hertling said, because public affairs and community-relations training are critical to the effort to combat the nation's enemies.

"When some of these young Soldiers put a product out online ... or command information to Soldiers, it can quickly be taken by the enemy to be used against us," he said. "So these young Soldiers have to understand that their specialty is important. They have to understand the bigger picture."

Keck said Hertling's visit was important to the DINFOS faculty and students because it helped them to understand the importance that Army leadership places on their training.

"I have no doubt that the staff and students who were able



Lt. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, special assistant to the commanding general, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, discusses the training of students at the Defense Information School with Staff Sgt. Amy Brown (right), a course instructor, and Sgt. 1st Class Anna Waddell, a section chief, on a visit Dec. 8.

PHOTO BY
LISA R. RHODES

Residents evacuate Midway Commons

By Fort Meade Public Affairs Office

An evacuation was prompted Friday afternoon after a local high school student was overheard talking about making a pipe bomb.

As a precaution to ensure resident safety, police evacuated a 500-meter perimeter around the Ray Street home in Midway Commons. Residents were sent to a nearby neighborhood community center and were allowed to return to their homes at approximately 6 p.m.

Military police searched the home with bomb-sniffing dogs, which detected potential explosive residue in the home. An Explosives Ordnance Disposal unit from Andrews Air Force Base, Va., then checked the home and determined there were no

explosives or threat to the community.

The home is occupied by a service member who is exposed to explosive residue while on duty.

"We are very thankful no one was injured and that there were no explosives found in the home," said Doug Wise, chief of Plans and Operations for the Directorate of Plans, Training and Mobilization.

"We will be able to use several lessons from this event to improve our response procedures if a similar incident happens again," he added. "We would like to thank residents and our housing partners at Picerne for their cooperation. Their prompt response helped us reach our ultimate goal of ensuring resident safety."

Meade finishes oil tank cleanup

By Jennifer Casteline
Public Affairs Specialist

Fort Meade has successfully completed all corrective action to an environmental cleanup site on the installation, according to a report filed by the Maryland Department of the Environment.

The MDE officially closed its case relating to oil tanks stored at the site of a former troop boiler plant off Simonds Street, declaring full remediation of the site has been accomplished.

The former boiler plant had used above- and below-ground oil storage tanks when it was in opera-

tion in the early 1950s.

"We are pleased that our efforts to correct this historic contamination have now reached a satisfactory conclusion for this particular site," said Mick Butler, chief of the Environmental Division. "We will continue our robust efforts to address issues with other sites on the installation and look forward to further successes down the road."

Corrective actions at the boiler plant site included the temporary installation of 41 monitoring wells, the use of several remediation technologies, and the removal of all but one storage tank.